

# Master Patient Index (MPI)

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## Overview

There are over 140 Veterans Health Administration (VHA) databases and more than 160 Veterans Health Information Systems and Technology Architecture (**VISTA**) systems in use around the country. Because of this wide distribution of information, there is great potential for individual patient data to be kept under more than one identification number. To support maintenance of a unique patient identifier and a single master index of all VA patients, and to allow messaging of patient information among the institutional partners [i.e., VHA, Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), Board of Veterans Appeals (BVA), and National Cemetery Service (NCS)] the Master Patient Index (MPI) has been created. The MPI maintains a central index to correctly identify patients across many systems. MPI contains the following three modules:

## Master Patient Index — Austin

- This is the actual index of patients that is maintained at the Austin Automation Center.
- The MPI assigns each patient (1) a unique patient identifier (Integration Control Number, or ICN) and (2) initially assigns the requesting site as the CIRN Master Of Record (CMOR).
- Each index entry in the MPI also contains the patient's identifying information (e.g., name, SSN, date of birth) and a current list of facilities where the patient has been seen.
- The MPI is updated as new patients are added or their data is updated at the VA Medical Centers.

## Master Patient Index — VISTA

- This is the software that resides in **VISTA** and sends patient data to the MPI — Austin and to sites where a patient has been seen.
- During the initialization of the MPI — Austin, each VA Medical Center requests ICNs for all of its patients whose records reflect activity in the past three years.
- When a patient's record is first entered into the system, the MPI assigns and returns an ICN, along with the CIRN Master of Record (CMOR) designation and a list of other treating facilities where the patient has been seen.
- Once this process has been completed, the MPI — Austin is kept up-to-date through MPI — **VISTA**, Patient Information Management System (PIMS), and Clinical Information Resource Network (CIRN) options.
- MPI **VISTA** enables sites to query the MPI, to inactivate an ICN, and to manage incoming and outgoing Change CMOR requests.

## CIRN Master of Record

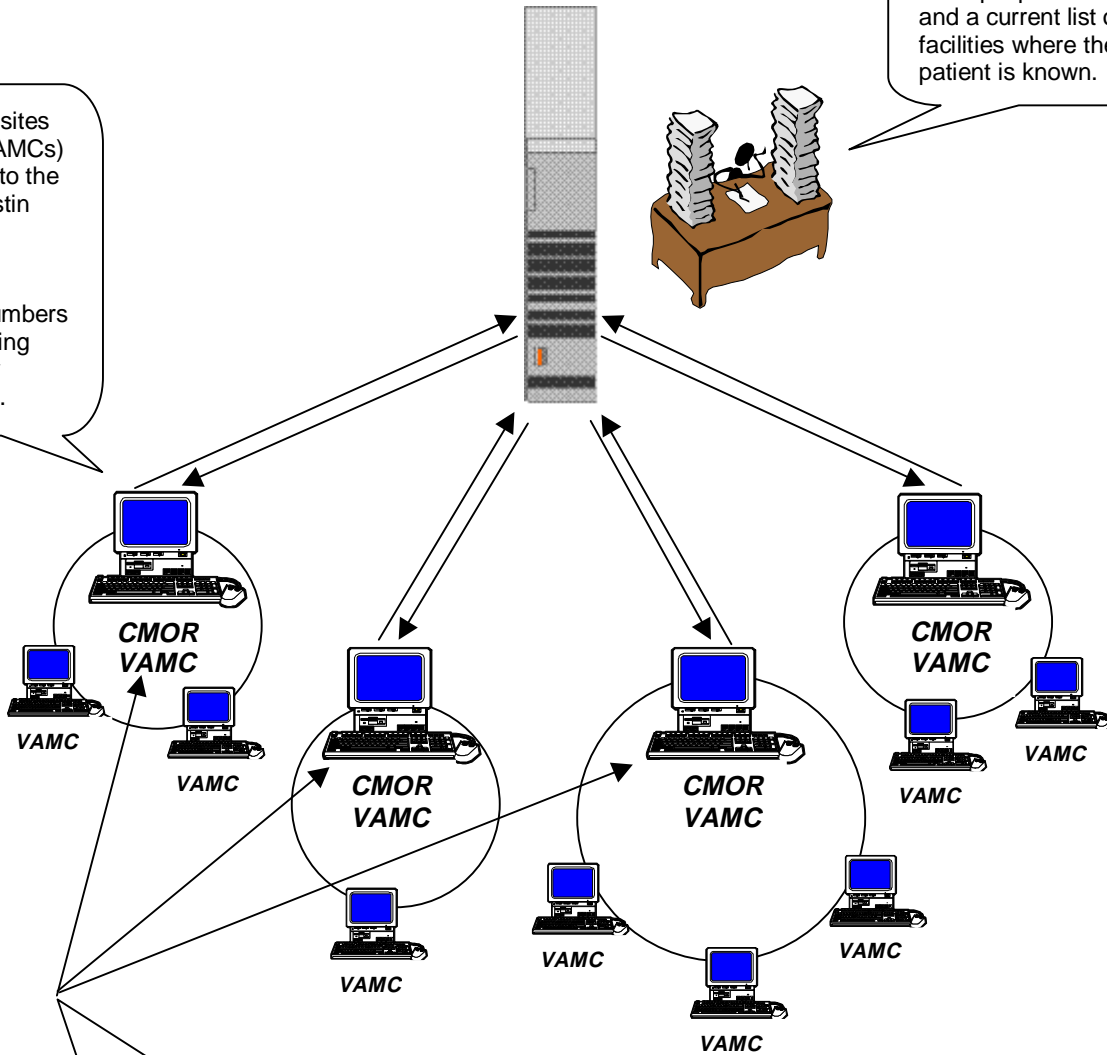
- The CIRN Master of Record (CMOR) is the site with responsibility for the identifying information in a patient's record in the MPI — Austin and is the only site authorized to change the data after the patient has been established.
- The first site to identify a patient to the MPI — Austin is initially designated the CMOR.
- After the initialization process, the patient's CMOR Activity Scores are compared at the CMOR and the non-CMOR sites. If a non-CMOR site has a higher CMOR Activity Score for a patient and the difference is greater than 80%, the current CMOR sends an HL7 message to the MPI — Austin and to all sites which have treated this patient informing them that the CMOR has changed.

# Master Patient Index (MPI)

## Master Patient Index (MPI) Data Store in Austin

MPI at Austin maintains a unique patient index and a current list of facilities where the patient is known.

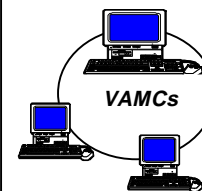
VistA MPI sites (CMOR VAMCs) send data to the MPI at Austin requesting patient Integration Control Numbers (ICNs) during day-to-day operations.



CIRM Master of Record (CMOR) for an individual patient is generally determined based upon the CMOR activity score.

## Master Patient Index (MPI) VISTA

### Legend



(Facilities where the patient is known.)